

## IRRIGATION CONGRESS AT COLORADO SPRINGS

Plans Now Being Completed in Denver.

DATE SET FOR OCTOBER 6-9

It is Hoped the President May Accept an Invitation to Attend the Meetings—The Event Is of the Utmost Agricultural Importance.

The tenth national irrigation congress, which is to be held at Colorado Springs, October 6 to 9 inclusive, will be one of the banner events of this nature. Preparations are going vigorously forward, and Mr. C. E. Wantland, chairman of the executive committee, and Hon. F. C. Goudy and Secretary McClurg are actively engaged in whipping matters into shape.

It is likely that a large attendance will be present, and to this end all railroads in the Western Passenger Association and in the Transcontinental Passenger Association have made rates of one-half fare, plus \$2, for the round trip from all points in this territory, and these special rate tickets will be good returning from Colorado Springs up to October 31.

Letters have been sent by the executive committee and others to all of the leading papers of the sixteen Western States directly interested in the reclamation of the arid regions, requesting them editorially and locally to make known the holding of the irrigation congress at Colorado Springs in October, and very many of these journals have already complied with the request, the subject being of the prime importance to the people of the "Greater West." It is easily first in the matter of noteworthy editorials.

### President May Attend.

While it is not absolutely certain at this time there is every hope that President Roosevelt may be prevailed upon to attend the congress. A formal invitation has been extended to the Chief Executive, and it is hoped he will accept.

This congress, it is expected, will not only draw those directly and personally interested in irrigation to Colorado Springs, but there will be a fine attendance of bankers, lawyers, and editors from throughout the entire West, for in reality every man of any prominence or of any considerable business or interests in the Western States is directly interested in the proceedings and recommendations of this congress, dealing with what is perhaps the most important public question in the United States today.

Governor Orman has been invited, and it is expected will deliver an address of welcome to the delegates, followed by Mayor Robinson, of Colorado Springs, welcoming them to the foot of Pike's Peak.

The president of the national irrigation congress, Hon. Thomas F. Walsh, who is now in Europe, cabled the Denver chamber of commerce a large subscription to further the work in hand.

### Discussion of Irrigation Act.

It is planned to devote an entire day on the program to the discussion of the national irrigation act, its operations and possibilities. It goes without saying that the leading irrigation experts in the country will be on hand to take part in the discussion, and all the Senators and Congressmen of the States and Territories in the arid region have especially been invited to be present and join in the program and debate.

The official call, asking governors, mayors, county commissioners, chambers of commerce and other business men's associations, horticultural, arboricultural and irrigation associations, etc., to appoint delegates to this congress, will be sent out by the executive committee next week. A suitable hall or the opera house has been guaranteed for the holding of the convention. They will arrange for special excursion rates for the delegates to the summit of Pike's Peak and to the Cripple Creek district, and drives will be arranged from which the delegates may have a magnificent view of the scenery of this region. A grand banquet is considered as among the probabilities of the occasion.

The vice presidents of the congress are ex-Governor Prince, of New Mexico, and Mr. F. B. Thurber, of New York city. There are vice presidents and also members of the executive committee from every State and Territory.

### Irrigation of Importance.

Mr. W. E. Smythe, of California, who has been actively interested in all matters pertaining to irrigation, and who was an important factor in securing the passage of the present measure, has written the following letter to the congress:

"The importance of the measure which has just become a law resides in the principle it establishes rather than in the amount of appropriation it carries. The nation has decided to make the people's heritage available for the people's use. The method which it has chosen represents a departure so revolutionary as to have been fairly unthinkable when this movement began twelve years ago. It is a vast work which confronts the men of the West at this critical juncture. We are not making laws for ourselves alone. We are fulfilling the obligations of our forefathers to the millions who are to live here in coming generations. Beyond this lies the mighty future. The fate of posterity is in our keeping."

## Gossip and Chat of the Newspaper Workers, Their Doings and Friends.

THE Iroquois Club has started out to be a success and a successor. It occupies the rooms of the old National Capital Press Club, and many of the former members of that organization are on the Iroquois roster. A majority of the members of the club are newspaper men, but it is by no means an exclusive press organization; and for that matter neither was the old National Capital Press Club, which had for associate members many men active in national and local affairs. The election of Maj. Gen. Charles Heywood as president and John P. Miller (a former president of the old club) as vice president, brings the Iroquois distinctly in line. The names of Ambrose Bierce and Joseph Luskett as directors also give assurance that the club will have plenty of character and vigor. The first annual report exhibited the fact that the organization was in excellent financial condition, a distinct departure from the condition of the older club, which, although one of the most popular social organizations in the history of Washington, lost money swiftly, surely, and steadily as long as it lingered "in our midst."

One of the pictures hanging in the Iroquois is a spirited representation of the battle of Mobile Bay, in which Admiral Farragut won immortal fame, and his gallant antagonist, Admiral Franklin Buchanan, C. S. N., lost everything but his honor and his life, and came very near losing the latter. The picture has a special significance from the fact that it was presented to the club by its president, General Heywood, who was a participant in the battle. When the fight was over and the knightly Buchanan, sorely wounded, had surrendered, Admiral Farragut detailed Heywood to take charge of him, and the general had Buchanan in his custody for a day. Of course, everything possible was done for Buchanan's comfort. At the end of the day James E. Jouett, who died last week a retired rear admiral, relieved General Heywood as custodian of the fighting commander of the Merrimac and Tennessee.

And, speaking of Jouett, recalls the story told by that bluff and big-hearted sailor about himself as a public speaker. It was at a newspaper men's dinner, occurring not long after his return from Panama, where he had borne a great part in restoring order. The admiral had not expected to be called on for any remarks, and he explained that speaking was not much in his line. "In fact," said he, "I was not much encouraged to become a public speaker. When, as a

young lad, I reported to Commodore Stewart on the deck of the old Constitution I had a nice and modest little speech which my good mother had prepared for me. It was to the effect that I intended to stand by the flag, do my whole duty, and try to become a good sailor. I started it, but I did not get far. The commodore looked at me, and his look meant business. He said: 'Young man, you are to make just two speeches on this ship. They are: "Yes, sir," and "No, sir!" Go below!' And then the admiral promptly sat down. The "speech" was heartily applauded.

W. J. Ethel has just returned here from Indianapolis, where he was for several days the guest of his old friend, J. Whitcomb Riley. By a singular coincidence, the son of the late William M. Kennard has just come to Washington to attend law school. Now, Ethel and the senior Kennard were largely responsible for Riley's first rise to fame. It was by the perpetration of the famous fake Poe poem, "Leonainie," Riley has just been telling the "Indianapolis News" all about it. "Leonainie" had great vogue for some years, many people strenuously contending that it was a genuine Poe. It was a fine bit of imitation of the style of the American immortal, and also a skillful forgery of his handwriting. As Mr. Riley himself tells the tale:

"The affair happened in 1877. I was at that time employed on the 'Anderson Democrat,' doing personals, advertising and all sorts of miscellaneous work, including some rhyming. On the paper with me were Will M. Croan and Michael Y. Todisman. It was a dull season and we pranked a good deal.

"Will Kennard was a brilliant young fellow on the 'Anderson Herald,' the opposition paper. He had considerable literary taste and a subtle sense of humor. Will Ethel, who had, like myself, been a painter, was then reading law in Anderson. Samuel Richards was also one of us. Kennard used to have a great deal of fun with me, as I was a novice in newspaper work. He called me especially about my poetry, which he did not hesitate to pronounce as a rather feeble output, and he said that he did not marvel at all that when sent to magazines it was invariably and promptly returned to the writer. To this rally I invariably responded that the writings were returned simply because I was unknown, and not because of the quality of the work; that on the roster of commonplace names J. W. Riley, as I then signed myself, led all the rest. I held that these initials might mean Joseph Wilson, John Wesley, or Jabez Williamson Riley, and argued that my

very ordinary name was as much the cause of the return of the manuscripts as anything else. I advanced the argument that were these poems signed by a name known to fame or a name of some distinction, my poetry might pass muster; that critics would accept it for the name's sake. At this argument and defense Kennard laughed again and again. Then I set about to demonstrate the soundness of my contention. With the chums I have named, a little scheme was set on foot. Looking about over the list of dead poets I selected Poe as a little in the hoaxing line himself, and held that perhaps he would not particularly care if some liberties should be taken with his name.

"It was under these circumstances that I wrote 'Leonainie.' It was written on a fly-leaf which was detached from an old copy of Almsworth's dictionary that was in the 'Anderson Democrat' office. I took this leaf to Mr. Ethel and Samuel Richards. All this was before the poem was written. When it was written it was called 'Leonainie,' and was in imitation of Poe. There was some experimenting by my two artist friends, to whom I furnished my copy with all the indentations and punctuation marks carefully put down, as one of the characteristics of Poe was his exquisite taste in such matters. He seemed to have it in mind to make his copy so perfect that no compositor could possibly go wrong in reproducing it at the font. In getting this together we had a limited amount of facsimile of the handwriting of Poe taken from a magazine article on the poet that had appeared not long before. Then it became necessary to build a story regarding the finding of the poem which had been put back into the old book. It was deemed prudent to publish it in the 'Democrat,' the paper with which I was connected. The curious would have scented the genesis of the poem. So we wrote, asking the editors of the 'Kokomo Dispatch' to print the poem, with the story that it had been found, together with the story of the finding of it in Kokomo. I wanted to be able to shake that poem in Kennard's face in proof of my position that it was the name that made things, more than the opinion of critics; that many criticised without any basis at all to go upon. This is the story of the hoax. I did not expect that it would cause, as it did, such widespread comment. The only object of those immediately concerned was to make a little stir among the State exchanges. In the 'Anderson Democrat' I wrote myself an article deriding any pretension that the poem could have as to being genuine Poe. This was

done to throw my friends off. They would say, 'No, Riley didn't write it; he is making fun of it.'

"It was all done for sport. Mr. Ethel and Mr. Richards experimented with the Poe handwriting. Mr. Ethel was called away before any copy was produced. The final copy was sent down by Samuel Richards, who had to do some inventing, necessarily, not having all the required letters of Poe's handwriting. "Edmund Clarence Stedman was reported to have said that it was the best imitation poem of Poe he had ever seen. What he did say was that it was the best imitation of Poe's handwriting that he had ever seen. This he told me himself in his own library, with the further remark that he ought to be considered somewhat of an authority on Poe's handwriting."

This is the poem, "Leonainie," as uttered by the "Indianapolis News," by permission of the Bowen-Merrill Company:

LEONAINIE—Angie's named her;  
And they took the light  
Of the laughing stars and framed her  
In a smile of white;  
And they made her hair of gloomy  
Moonlight, and her eyes of bloomy  
Moonshine, and they brought her to me  
In the solemn night.

In a solemn night of summer,  
When my heart of bloom  
Blissed up to greet the corner  
Like a rose in bloom;  
All forebodings that distressed me  
I forgot as joy caressed me—  
(Lying Joy! that caught and pressed me  
In the arms of doom!)

Only spoke the little lipser  
In the Angel tongue;  
Yet I, listening, heard her whisper  
"Songs are only sung  
Here below that they may grieve you—  
They but told you to deceive you—  
So must Leonainie leave you—  
While her love is young."

Then God smiled and it was morning,  
Matchless and supreme,  
Heaven's glory seemed adorning  
Earth with its esteem;  
Every heart but mine seemed gifted  
With the voice of prayer, and lifted  
While my Leonainie drifted  
From me like a dream.

"The story of the finding of 'Leonainie,' as given out by the 'Kokomo Dispatch,' was that the editor chanced to call on one of his subscribers, a worthy butcher in Anderson, and as he, the editor, was waiting for him to appear, he picked up a book from a table. This was an old copy of Almsworth's Dictionary. As the editor opened the book he found in faded ink a poem written with a peculiar accuracy that struck a printer's eye. He looked over the poem. He was struck with the strange title, 'Leonainie,' and saw that the poem was signed at the bottom with the letters E. A. P. When the man of the house came in, so the story ran, the editor inquired how the book came into his possession. The visitor was told that the

owner had it from a grandfather who, in years gone by, had kept a tavern near the city of Richmond, Va. His grandfather had often told the story that a very eccentric man had stayed at the tavern one night. All through the night he was heard walking the floor of his room. When morning came the guest was gone, and the host never saw him again. But he found on a table in the room this dictionary and the poem written on one of its fly leaves. The 'News' says the old dictionary with the poem in it passed into the hands of Mr. Foote, a New York banker. He wrote to Riley when he heard the story of the hoax, long after he had purchased the book, evidently in the best of faith. Of course, Riley told him the truth about it. He then said, very graciously, that he was going to keep it and hoped as the years went by that I would make it of value through my own reputation. The poem 'Leonainie' is in my book 'Armazind,' published several years ago. The old dictionary, with the poem written twenty-five years ago by Mr. Riley, is now in the possession of Paul Lemperley, a book collector of Cleveland. The poem is yet on the detached flyleaf. The book was bought by him after Mr. Foote died at auction. Mr. Lemperley is said to value it at \$10,000.

Turner A. Wickersham, the real estate dealer here, was an intimate friend of Riley, Kennard, Ethel, and all the "Leonainie" fakirs. He took a great part in originating the poem, and also knows all the facts about Riley's tour as the Blind Painter. But that is quite another story. Of the participants in the preparation of the "Leonainie" hoax—which was perpetrated twenty-five years ago—but two are dead, Richards and Kennard. Richards became a famous artist, went abroad and afterward died in Denver. Kennard labored in many Western cities, and was justly admired for his ability. His health was never of the best, and he faded away in Pennsylvania. One of his newspaper connections, including one issue that contained all the lies possible to tell, and one issue which was all in rhymes. Kennard's genius literally shone in the lying newspaper (not that he was a liar or lover of lies, but because the idea amused him). To the surprise of everyone on that staff, he did not take kindly to the rhyming paper, although he had a great deal of poetic ability—probably more than any other member of that curious and eccentric staff, excepting the deaf poet, George Melnotte Grummond, who is best remembered by his pen name, "Melnotte Tarheel." Grummond, too, is gone—in his case suicide.

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Inasmuch as the makers feel confident that the women who wear "QUEEN QUALITY" can show BETTER REASONS for the superiority of the "QUEEN QUALITY" Shoe than can be given for any other Shoe on earth, they offer FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS in GOLD to the ONE HUNDRED Women who give the BEST REASONS why the "QUEEN QUALITY" Shoe is superior to All other Shoes in the following respects:

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No special literary ability is required to enter this contest. Prizes will not be awarded according to the merits of the articles from a literary standpoint, but according to the common sense, logic and value of the reasons given.

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Your article must not contain over TWO HUNDRED words. You may write on one or more of the points of superiority. Simply state YOUR OWN IDEAS of what are the BEST REASONS. Your experience may induce others to buy. All articles must be received by January 1, 1903. Contest open from October 1 to December 25, 1902.

The articles will be judged and prizes awarded by a committee of prominent publishers about January 1, 1903. Your Article MUST be written WITH INK. Mail in envelope furnished with the blank. Letter Postage (2c.) required. WRITE PLAINLY, Fill in FULL NAME and Address on the lines indicated on the back of blank. We would suggest that your article be prepared on another slip and copied upon this blank when completed.

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6th to 10th Prizes, 5, each	100
11th to 20th " 10, "	75
21st to 30th " 10, "	50
31st to 40th " 10, "	25
41st to 50th " 10, "	20
51st to 60th " 10, "	15
61st to 70th " 10, "	10
71st to 100th " 30, "	5

MAKING A TOTAL OF

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